

Message Text

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ACTION IO-11

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 ORM-02 DHA-02 AID-05 AGR-05

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01 TRSE-00 ABF-01

AF-06 ARA-06 EA-07 EUR-12 /115 W

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FM USMISSION USUN NY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6259

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY DOHA

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, SREF, UNRWA, UN, XF

SUBJ: UNRWA HIGH COMMISSIONER MEETING WITH UNRWA WORKING GROUP

REF: USUN (75) 5893 (NOTAL)

SUMMARY: UNRWA WORKING GROUP MET MARCH 10 TO HEAR COMMISSIONER
GENERAL SIR JOHN RENNIE REPORT ON UNRWA FINANCIAL OUTLOOK
FOR 1976. GENERAL FINANCIAL SITUATION REMAINS CRITICAL,
WITH \$50 MILLION DEFICIT ANTICIPATED IN 1976. RENNIE SAID
HE WOULD NOT CUT BACK OPERATIONS NOW, BUT WOULD HAVE TO CEASE
DISTRIBUTION OF FLOUR THIS SUMMER IF DEFICIT NOT
SUBSTANTIALLY ELIMINATED BY MAY. END SUMMARY.

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1. COMMISSIONER GENERAL'S WRITTEN REPORT AND ORAL COMMENTS DEALT LARGELY WITH SHORT-FALL OF 1976 FUNDING, CREATED BY WAR DAMAGE AND MOVEMENT OF UNRWA OFFICES AWAY FROM FIGHTING ZONE. AFTER ADJUSTMENTS THERE REMAINS AN ESTIMATED DEFICIT OF ABOUT \$51,500,000 FOR 1976. COMMISSIONER GENERAL PROPOSES TO APPROACH PREVIOUS DONOR COUNTRIES AND OTHER STATES TO BRIDGE GAP.

2. RENNIE CONSIDERED IT IMPRACTICAL TO CUT 1976 DEFICIT BY HALF, COMMENCING APRIL 1, AS ENVISAGED IN HIS DECEMBER 1975 GA ADDRESS. TO DO SO WOULD CUT HEAVILY INTO EDUCATION PROGRAMS AND DISRUPT SCHOOL YEAR. SIR JOHN WAS EMPHATIC IN OPPOSING ANY REDUCTION OF SCHOOL PROGRAM, WHICH HE IMPLIED WOULD FURTHER AGGRAVATE MIDDLE EAST POLITICAL TENSIONS. IN HIS OPINION, UNRWA PROGRAM COULD NOT SURVIVE IF SCHOOL PROGRAM WAS CUT.

3. COMMISSIONER GENERAL PROPOSED THAT (A) UN APPEAL FOR ADDITIONAL SPECIAL CONTRIBUTIONS; (B) UN SECRETARY GENERAL BE KEPT INFORMED OF FUND RAISING EFFORT; (C) ADVISORY COMMISSION BE INFORMED OF THE FUND APPEAL, AND (D) RESULTS BE REPORTED TO COMMISSION BY COMMISSIONER GENERAL IN LATTER PART OF MAY.

4. LATTER HALF OF MAY WILL BE POINT OF IMPORTANT DECISIONS. ANY REDUCTIONS IN UNRWA PROJECTED EXPENSES WOULD BE DEFERRED UNTIL 30 JUNE 1976 AND WOULD DEPEND UPON THE RESULTS OF THE FUND RAISING. WHETHER AGENCY COULD CONTINUE TO OPERATE FROM JULY 1, 1976 WOULD DEPEND UPON MAGNITUDE OF REDUCTIONS AND DISCHARGE OF STAFF.

5. COMMISSIONER GENERAL WILL BE IN WASHINGTON MARCH 11-12 TO DISCUSS FRESH CONTRIBUTIONS. IN APRIL HE WILL VISIT UNSPECIFIED ARAB COUNTRIES FOR SIMILAR CONSULTATIONS. WORKING GROUP SUGGESTED THAT EEC AND ISLAMIC LEAGUE BE APPROACHED FOR FINANCIAL HELP. RENNIE CONSIDERED PLO SUPPORT ESSENTIAL; HE SAID THEY WERE HELPFUL LAST TIME AND HAD PROMISED TO BE HELPFUL AGAIN. CHAIRMAN OF WORKING GROUP, AMBASSADOR ILTER TURKMEN (TURKEY) WAS AUTHORIZED TO BRING FINANCIAL PROBLEM TO ATTENTION OF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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UN REGIONAL GROUPS WITHIN THE NEXT FEW DAYS. INFORMAL MEETING OF WORKING GROUP WILL TAKE PLACE WEEK OF MARCH 14 FOR FURTHER EXCHANGE OF VIEWS.

6. A COPY OF COMMISSIONER GENERAL'S REPORT POUCHED IO/UNP - PHYLLIS OAKLEY. BENNETT

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: REFUGEE RELIEF, FINANCIAL CRISIS, COMMITTEE MEETINGS, POLITICAL SITUATION, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 11 MAR 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: greeneet
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976USUNN00950
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760091-1032
From: USUN NEW YORK
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760369/aaaacixa.tel
Line Count: 114
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION IO
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: greeneet
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 14 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <14 MAY 2004 by ElyME>; APPROVED <15 SEP 2004 by greeneet>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: UNRWA HIGH COMMISSIONER MEETING WITH UNRWA WORKING GROUP
TAGS: PFOR, SREF, XF, UNRWA, UN
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006